

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

CU-02 OPR-02 /062 W

----- 061680

R 141730Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1084

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PR

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS IN AZORES FOLLOWING MARCH 11

1. DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZED BY LEFTIST MOUTHS IN SUPPORT MFA TOOK PLACE LAST NIGHT IN PONTA DELGADA. DESPITE EXTENSIVE ADVANCE PUBLICITY ONLY ABOUT TWO HUNDRED PERSONS, MOSTLY STUDENTS ATTENDED. AFTER BRIEF SPEECHES CROWD PARADED THRU CITY CARRYING PLACARDS DENOUNCING CIA AND AMERICAN IMPERIALISM BUT ALSO CALLING ATTENTION SUCH BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES AS UNEMPLOYMENT AND HIGH COST OF LIVING. PARADE STOPPED BRIEFLY IN FRONT CONSULATE TO SHOUT ANTI AMERICAN SLOGANS AND ENDED WITH ATTACK ON MAPA HEAD-QUARTERS. AFTER DEMONSTRATORS DESTROYED SOME FURNITURE AND MAPA FLAG, TROOPS PERSONALLY LED BY COMMODORE EMANUEL RICU, ACTING MILITARY GOVERNOR AZORES, ARRIVED AND RESTORED ORDER.

2. MES COMMUNIQUE BROADCAST YESTERDAY BY GOVERNMENT RADIO STATION AND PUBLISHED TODAYS PAPERS ATTRIBUTES MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT TO PORTUGUESE CAPITALISTS AND AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. AS EVIDENCE LAJES RECDNT QUOTE " NATO MANUEVERS IN PORTUGAL AND ASSIGNMENT AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI(TERMED QTE KNOWN ELEMENT OF CIA UNQUOTE) TO PORTUGAL".

ALSO ALLEGES THAT AXORES HAVE BEEN VISITED BY QTE AGENTS OF IMPERIALISM, LAST OF WHOM, HERBERT OKUN, WAS HERE LAST SATURDAY

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UNQUOTE.

3. COMUSFORAZ ADVISES THAT RALLIES HELD ON TERCEIA A EVENING OF MARCH 11 IN SUPPORT MFA. DEMONSTRATORS REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED ANTI AMERICAN AND ANTI BASE SENTIMENTS.

4. COMMENT: PONTA DELGADA DEMONSTRATION MIGHT HAVE BEEN LARGER IF ORGANIZED BY ADULTS BUT SMALL TURNOUT INDICATIVE OF WEAKNESS OF LEFT HERE. ITS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT ARMED TROOPS ON HAND PRIOR TO RALLY AND RICOU HAD BEEN ASKED BY MAPA FOR PROTECTION IN ADVANCE. FAILURE TO GIVE PROTECTION APPEARS DELIBERATE.
DANIELS

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